

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated September 18, 2007 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claim 1 is hereby amended. Claim 2 was previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No claims are added. Accordingly, claims 1 and 3-4 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

The Office rejected claims 1, 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over European Application Patent No. 120,640 to *EMI Limited* (hereinafter "*EP '640*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,949,779 to *Mostafa et al.* (hereinafter "*Mostafa*"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request reconsideration.

As required in Chapter 2143.03 of the MPEP, in order to "establish *prima facie* obviousness of the claimed invention, all the limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art." Applicants submit that neither *EP '640* nor *Mostafa* either singularly or in combination, teach or suggest each and every element recited in claims 1, 3 and 4.

Independent claim 1 is allowable over *EP '640* in view of *Mostafa* in that claim 1 recites a method for identifying multiple home networks comprising, at least, "providing a serial number of the adapter to the network controller, and accessing a house code managing site on the Internet by the network controller." As admitted by the Office, *EP '640* does not teach these features of claim 1. *Office Action at page 3.*

Applicants respectfully assert that *Mostafa* does not cure the deficiencies of *EP '640*. The Office has construed *Mostafa* to teach "putting a house code setting program (abstract: Consumer Electronic Bus (CEBus) network protocol) into operation in the network controller (network controller is taught in the abstract as CEBus network." *Office Action* at p. 4. However, *Mostafa* teaches that the "utility host master-node (UHMN) is a central management entity, responsible for monitoring and controlling the utility-managed settable nodes (USMNs)." *Mostafa* at col. 5:33-35. That is, the UHMN is the network controller not the CEBus network as

purported by the Office. The UHMN is also the house code managing site. *See Mostafa* at col. 8:29-38. *Mostafa* cannot possibly teach “providing a serial number of the adapter to the network controller, and accessing a house code managing site on the Internet by the network controller,” because the UHMN is the network controller and the house code managing site and the house code setting program of *Mostafa* does not make access to a house code managing site on the Internet. Accordingly, none of the cited references, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests all of the features of independent claim 1. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the Office withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of independent claim 1. Claims 3 and 4 depend from independent claim 1. It stands to reason that the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of those dependent claims should be withdrawn as well.

The application is in condition for allowance. Early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the

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filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: November 14, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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